

of Indiana University, Purdue University, Butler University, Indianapolis Central University (now University of Indianapolis), and Franklin College.

An avid writer and photography lover, Mr. Johnson regularly contributes a two-page column, "Four Seasons Musings" to his retirement community's monthly newspaper.

Throughout his 100 years, Mr. Merrill Johnson has been dedicated to his family and friends, and I am grateful for his contributions to our great state. I am honored to commemorate a life of integrity and service to his family and his community.

RECOGNIZING FOX CHAPEL AREA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the students, faculty, and administration of Fox Chapel Area High School in Pittsburgh, PA, for their participation in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. On March 16, 2012, the students of Mrs. Jen Klein's Advanced Placement Government class hosted local veterans to be interviewed about their service in the military.

Nine veterans visited Fox Chapel Area High School where students collected first-hand accounts of their experiences serving in the military, including World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. These stories will become a part of the permanent collection at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Along with the veterans' biographical data, their personal stories will be preserved so that future generations can understand the sacrifice and commitment they made for our country.

The Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center was created by Congress and signed into law in 2000. To date, over 74,000 records have been collected from veterans across the country. As the largest oral history program in United States history, this program relies on volunteers throughout the nation to collect and preserve the first-hand interviews of America's wartime veterans. Because of their participation, the students of Fox Chapel Area High School's names and interviews will be a part of the permanent collection.

The Veterans History Project gives our servicemen and women the opportunity to share their stories of service to our country in a way that no one else can. As the future leaders of America, these students exemplify the best that our schools have to offer. For their outstanding work and dedication to this project, I would like to commend and thank the following students of Fox Chapel Area High School:

Alexander Carlier, Ishan Chatterjee, Zachary Ferguson, Ben Freeman, Alexander Fox, Alexander Goodwin, Sarah Henry, Steven Ho, Loteta Lee, Johnny Lou, Jack Millard, Minu Nagashunmugam, Cristian Nicolescu, Sarah Ogren, Erin Ross, Nicole Segall, Ryan Shymansky, Andrew Tabas, Carly Trakofler,

Connor Whelan, Samantha Wiley, Hannah Davis Leizerowski, Emily Owens, Tanner Patsko, Morgan Tucker, Emma Thompson, Josh Norkevicius, Erin Zoller, Ana Roc Martinez, Graydon Leonard, Gisselle Manson, Benjamin Klaas, Chloe Artice, Jacob Snyder.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Duncan Amendment to prevent appropriations from being used to implement the Convention on the Law of the Sea. As Ranking Member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know the importance of this treaty for both the Coast Guard and the Navy. Signing the Convention would allow both military services to prevent potential conflicts at sea with other nations. It would also lock in critical navigational rights that will ensure the timeliness and operational readiness of the services. This is a bipartisan issue, and I regret this amendment attempts to make it a partisan one.

Both the Navy and Coast Guard are enthusiastic and supportive of the potential that the Convention on the Law of the Sea holds. In fact, earlier this month Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert Papp gave a speech in which he said the Convention would "better enable the Coast Guard to protect Americans from the sea, protect Americans from threats delivered by sea, and protect the sea itself."

This amendment is the wrong policy given the many benefits that we stand to gain by joining the Convention. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment.

HONORING JOHN F. MURPHY HOMES

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Murphy Homes of Auburn, Maine, on the occasion of its 35th anniversary.

John F. Murphy was one of Maine's foremost advocates on behalf of the developmentally disabled. In 1954, Mr. Murphy used his standing on the Lewiston Board of Finance to open the Garcelon School as an educational facility for mentally retarded children. After his passing in February of 1976, members of the Lewiston Auburn Association for

the Mentally Retarded formed a foundation in Mr. Murphy's honor to continue his work.

On May 18, 1977, the John F. Murphy Foundation for the Mentally Retarded was officially established with the mission to provide housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. In March of 1978, they opened their first home at 23 Pleasant Street in Lewiston for six people. Today, the agency provides direct support to hundreds of Mainers and their families, employs more than 700 people in the greater Lewiston-Auburn area, and generates millions of dollars in local economic activity.

John F. Murphy Homes has helped to raise awareness about intellectual disabilities and the need for group care facilities. The organization's remarkable success is owed to the outstanding vision of its founders and the tireless work of its employees.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating John F. Murphy Homes on achieving 35 years of exemplary service to the Lewiston-Auburn community.

REMEMBERING THE THIRD ANNI- VERSARY OF THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR IN SRI LANKA

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the third anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka.

Although the war ended on May 19, 2009, 90,000 Tamil war widows in the north and east continue to struggle to resume their lives without their husbands.

Many have not been able to return to their original homes and must cope with disabilities, both their own and their children's, caused by shelling and the lack of medicine and intentional starvation at the end of the war.

They have returned to a devastated land in which there is little remaining infrastructure and few jobs and which is occupied by a military force whose soldiers do not speak their language.

Making a return to normal life even more difficult is the lack of accountability for their husbands' deaths and the horrors these women and their children underwent at the end of the war, including physical, sexual, and gender-based violence.

Sri Lanka's Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission did not adequately deal with accountability by its armed forces.

At its March, 2012 session, the U.N. Human Rights Council called on Sri Lanka to "take all necessary additional steps to fulfill its relevant legal obligations and commitment to initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability and reconciliation for all Sri Lankans."

If Sri Lanka does not take up this task immediately, there must be international action to provide accountability.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I am a co-sponsor of H. Res. 177, which calls for an international investigation into what occurred in Sri Lanka at the end of its civil war.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.